

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ITF-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SR-02

ORM-01 AID-05 VO-03 SCA-01 L-02 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INSE-00 IGA-01 PRS-01

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R 071135Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3894

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USUN NEW YORK 1469

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VN, TH, CVIS, CGEN

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARRIVING BY BOAT IN THAILAND

1. AS DEPT IS AWARE, BOATS ARE ARRIVING THAILAND WITH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO ARE SEEKING ASYLUM AND SETTLEMENT IN THE U.S. MOST OF THESE ARE FISHING BOATS BUT SOME ARE RVN VESSELS PRESUMABLY PURCHASED WITH MAP FUNDS. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IS UNKNOWN BUT MUST BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 1,000; AND MORE ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE. EXACT INFORMATION ON NUMBERS OF PERSONS IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF OUR EFFORTS TO ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE REFUGEES NOR TO GIVE HOPES TO THE RTG OR REENFORCE HOPES OF THE REFUGEES THEMSELVES THAT WE MIGHT PERMIT THEM TO GO TO THE U.S.

2. THESE REFUGEES REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THEY SET SAIL FROM VIETNAM WITH WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD BE PICKED UP BY U.S. SHIPS AND PERMITTED TO RESETTLE IN THE U.S. MANY OF THE REFUGEES ARE
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VIETNAMESE MILITARY OR CIVILIAN OFFICIALS WITH THEIR

DEPENDENTS, ALTHOUGH A NUMBER ARE EVIDENTLY FARMERS AND MERCHANTS.

3. THE EMBASSY IS RECEIVING LETTERS AND CABLES FROM THESE BOATS AND MESSAGES VIA THIRD PARTIES WHICH INDICATE DESPERATION AND BITTERNESS OVER WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE THE U.S. FAILURE TO ASSIST THEM AS PROMISED. THEY ARGUE HAD THEY BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO ENCOUNTER A U.S. VESSEL, THEY WOULD NOW BE ENROUTE TO SUBIC BAY AND THE U.S. BECAUSE OUR SHIPS WERE WITHDRAWN, HOWEVER, THE REFUGEES WERE FORCED TO PROCEED TO LAND WHERE THEY ARE NOW STATELESS AND HELPLESS. NEITHER THE RTG, OTHER COUNTRIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS NOR THE U.S. SEEMED WILLING OR CAPABLE OF ASSISTING.

4. THE MESSAGES RECEIVED ARE PLAINTIVE AND SUPPLICATIVE. AN EXAMPLE IS THIS PART OF A CABLE SENT BY A COL. TRAN HU MINH AND 30 OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS WHO ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR FAMILIES LANDED AT PROVINCE PATTANI.

QUOTE: THERE ARE 141 PEOPLE INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN. WE USED A FISH BOAT TO GO TO PATTANI TO SHUN THE COMMUNISTS. THE AUTHORITY HERE AGREES TO PERMIT US TO LIVE WITHIN 7 DAYS. THE THAILAND AUTHORITY HELPED US SO MUCH IN THE ASPECT OF HUMAN FOOD, DRUGS, ETC. WE SERIOUSLY BEG YOU TO INTERFERE WITH THE USA AUTHORITY BECAUSE OF THE PROMISE OF HELPING US IN THE HUMAN ASPECT OF PRESIDENT FORD, TO LET US STAY AS REFUGEES IN THE USA. WE EXPECT TO KNOW YOUR ANSWER AND HOPE TO LEAVE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU SO MUCH. END QUOTE.
MASTERS

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NNN

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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
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